

A RESOLUTION to honor Dr. Frederic Tremaine Billings, Jr., on
the occasion of his retirement from Vanderbilt
University School of Medicine.

WHEREAS, once in a great while, the serendipitous hand of destiny places in our midst an individual whose exceedingly rare combination of talents and abilities serve to shape an entire profession: such a man is Dr. Frederic Tremaine Billings, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, endowed with uncommon insight, wisdom, unparalleled skills, and a genuine concern for the welfare of others, Dr. Billings, has been at the forefront of medical education for nearly half a century; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania native, Dr. Billings received his undergraduate degree from Princeton University, where he was president of his senior class and captain of the football team; a Rhodes Scholar, Dr. Billings earned his master of science degree from Oxford University's Balliol College in 1936 and graduated from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1938; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Billings completed his internship at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and residencies at Johns Hopkins and Vanderbilt University Hospital before answering a call to military service; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Billings served his country valiantly with the United States Army from 1942 to 1946, earning the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and serving as an assistant medical consultant and eventually Chief of General Medicine Branch before his honorable discharge; and

WHEREAS, since the 1940s, Dr. Billings has had a measurable impact on medical education, giving unreservedly of his time and talents as an instructor, assistant professor and

eventual full professor of medicine at Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt University School of Medicine; his incredible knowledge and leadership skills earned him the chairmanship of the Department of Medicine at Meharry from 1950 until 1957, also teaching at this fine institution from 1950 to 1961; and

WHEREAS, this well-respected physician and gifted educator has served Vanderbilt University in a number of worthy capacities, including Dean of Medical Students, Clinical Professor of Medicine, Associate Dean for Medical Center Development Programs, Interim Director of the Center for Health Services, member of the Executive Faculty and various standing committees, Clinical Professor of Medicine Emeritus and his present position as Professor of Medicine Emeritus; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Billings' efforts in medical research have been noted worldwide, as he has written extensively on important research topics since the 1930s, publishing more than 50 significant articles, contributing multiple chapters to important medical textbooks, and presenting valuable information at a host of conferences, forums, panels and committees; and

WHEREAS, the number of distinguished lectureships and visiting professorships to which Dr. Billings has been invited is nothing less than extraordinary, as he has shared his wealth of knowledge at Pennsylvania Hospital, the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Western Pennsylvania Hospital and General Hospital of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, living a life of service, which goes far beyond the spectrum of his employment, Dr. Billings has played an active role as Trustee at Princeton University, Meharry Medical College, and The Choate School; he has also served on the Tennessee State Rhodes Scholar Selection Committee, National Medical Fellowship, Incorporated Board of Directors, and was selected as a member of the Official United States Health Delegation to Russia in 1970; and

WHEREAS, ever one to shoulder the mantle of professional responsibility, Dr. Billings has been a member of countless societies and associations of which even a brief listing is inspiring: Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Omega Alpha, Association of American Physicians,

Association of American Medical Colleges, American College of Physicians, Fellow at the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, President of Johns Hopkins Medical and Surgical Association, Middle Tennessee Mental Health Association Board of Directors, Nashville Academy of Medicine and Davidson County Medical Society Board of Directors, and President of Nashville Society of Internal Medicine; and

WHEREAS, his many successes aside, Dr. Billings is most appreciative of the love and companionship he has shared with his wife of 53 years, the former Ann Howe, and their three children; and

WHEREAS, it is only fitting that the members of this Assembly wish to acknowledge their profound appreciation and gratitude to one of Tennessee's finest professionals and most esteemed citizens, Dr. Frederic T. Billings, Jr., as he answers the tantalizing call of retirement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Dr. Frederic Tremaine Billings, Jr., for a lifetime of service as a medical professional, an educator, and a great humanitarian, and wish him well as he takes a much deserved retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.